

**ABSTRACT**

Parsing and serializing files is performed to effect desired file conversions in a workflow. A method of parsing includes receiving a flat file in a native format, translating native format characters into tokens, and converting the flat file to an XML format with the use of an annotated schema. The annotated schema may include a model of the flat file inclusive of both delimited and positional types. A method of serializing includes receiving an XML file and converting it to a native format. A model of the native format may be used for serializing to produce a proper flat file format.